

## Minutes FOR THE LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING

The inhabitants of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, who are legal voters of the Town Meeting, met at their Town Hall, Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 2017 at 9:30 A.M. to act on the following Articles,

### **BUSINESS TRANACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32a.m.

Paul Gordon led the assembled body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul acknowledged the passing of John Wiley, Jim Boyle, Ken Ameden, Clyde Prouty, Steve Prouty and Barbara Rogers who had all served the Town of Londonderry in one way or another. He also asked all those who volunteer for the town in any way to stand and be recognized. Paul recognized outgoing Selectboard members Bill Wylie and Wayne Blanchard for their service to the Town.

Kelly Pajala gave a tribute to Clyde and Steve Prouty.

**Article 1:** To choose a Moderator to preside at the Town Meeting. Kelly Pajala nominated Doug Friant. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Doug Friant. Bob Forbes seconded the nomination. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Doug Friant went over the process of getting through the meeting.

**Article 2:** To act on the report of the Auditors. Pete Cobb moved to act on the article. Cynthia Gubb seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Without objection Roger Fox was asked to speak on behalf of the Mountain Valley Medical Center. Roger Fox spoke about withdrawing the MVMC's appropriation request. Elsie Smith read a letter from the MVMC Board of directors explaining the reason for withdrawing the request.

Bill Wylie spoke briefly about the commitment required for being a select board member.

**Article 3:** To elect Town Officials required by law to be elected at this meeting.

Town Clerk – Tina Labeau nominated Kelly Pajala. Danny Cobb moved nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Kelly Pajala. Claire Trask seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Town Treasurer – Kelly Pajala nominated Tina Labeau. Danny Cobb moved nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Tina Labeau. Matt Mosher seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Selectboard – 2yr term Esther Fishman nominated Georgianne Mora. Carol Dryden nominated Chad Stoddard. Both nominees spoke briefly. Danny Cobb moved nominations be closed. The body voted using paper ballot. While the ballots were counted a representative from the Vt Visiting Nurses Association spoke to the body about the services they provide to the community. Chris Blackey spoke about the progress of the church rebuild, thanked the community for the use of the Town Hall and reminded everyone about lunch. The result of that vote was Georgianne Mora 123, Chad Stoddard 65.

Selectboard 3yr term Emily Underwood nominated Jim Ameden. Andrew Saunders nominated Emmett Dunbar. Dick Dale moved nominations be closed. Mary Joyce Beringer seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Both candidates spoke briefly. The body voted by paper ballot. While ballots were being counted Sandra Clark recognized Dodie Crossman for her service to the Board of Listers. Steve Twitchell spoke about two lovely paintings by Doris Ingram that have been donated to the Transfer Station. He encouraged people to come look at them in his office. The result of the vote was Jim Ameden 109, Emmett Dunbar 79, spoiled 3.

Selectboard 1yr remaining of a 3yr term Carol Dryden nominated Thomas Cavanagh. Bruce Thomas nominated Cathy Aragi. Andrew Saunders nominated Emmett Dunbar. Dick Dale moved nominations be closed. Mike Carlton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice. The candidates spoke briefly. The body voted by paper ballot. While the ballots were being counted Bruce Frauman spoke about the Mighty Londonderry organization and its efforts toward emergency preparedness in Londonderry. He encouraged people to sign up for Vermont Alert for receiving notifications in the event of an emergency. The results of the vote were Emmett Dunbar 40, Thomas Cavanagh 92, Cathy Aragi 52. None of the candidates received a majority of the votes so a second round of ballot paper voting was needed. Emmett Dunbar withdrew his name from the race. While ballots were being cast Tina Labeau announced that we need new Green Up Day coordinaters. The result of the second vote was Thomas Cavanagh 114, Cathy Aragi 63, spoiled 2.

Lister – Sandra Clark nominated Geof Long. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Geof Long. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

1<sup>st</sup> Constable – Pete Cobb nominated Roger Sheehan. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Roger Sheehan. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

2<sup>nd</sup> Constable – Roger Sheehan nominated Nick Doane. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Nick Doane. Kim Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Delinquent Tax Collector – Tina Labeau nominated Joan Dayton. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Joan Dayton. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Town Grand Juror – Laurie Krooss Mullen nominated Peter Pagnucco. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Peter Pagnucco. Carol Dryden seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Town Agent- Carol Dryden nominated Levi Dryden. The nomination was declined. Carol Dryden nominated Huzon Alexander III. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Huzon Alexander III. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner- Danny Cobb nominated Laurie Krooss Mullen. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Laurie Krooss Mullen. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Article 4:** To elect two (2) members of the RED Board for a term of three (3) years. Larry Gubb nominated Stuart Osnow. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Stuart Osnow. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Melissa Brown nominated Charlie Cave. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Charlie Cave. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Article 5:** To elect (1) member of the RED board to fill the remaining two (2) years of a three (3) year term. Kelly Pajala nominated Ben Priggen. The nomination was declined. Jim Ameden nominated Chad Stoddard. The nomination was declined. Esther Fishman nominated Bruce Frauman. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bruce Frauman. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Article 6:** To elect one (1) Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three (3) years. Michael Goodbody nominated Katherine Mosenthal. Dick Dale moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Katherine Mosenthal. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Article 7:** Will the Town of Londonderry vote to renew the exemption from Property Taxes for the following: Champion Fire Building – Main Street, South Londonderry, Champion Fire Building – Route 100/Crescent Street, South Londonderry, Phoenix Fire Building – Route 100, Londonderry, Londonderry Rescue Squad Building – Route 100, Londonderry. John Barry moved the article. Dick Dale seconded the motion. John Barry asked what the length of the period of exemption was. Lister, Sandra Clark answered that it was every five years. The motion passed by a voice vote.

**Article 8:** Shall the Town of Londonderry vote to approve a sum of \$86,000.00 (Eighty-Six Thousand) to fund contracting with the VT State Police for policing the Town of Londonderry. Claire Trask moved the article. Marge Fish seconded it. There was extensive discussion on the article including objections about the cost of the contract and response times from VSP, positive comments about changes in the visibility of unwelcome behavior in public places, information about who the local liaisons to the VSP are and where monthly reports from VSP can be viewed by the public, and general positive and negative feelings about the police presence in Town. Pete Cobb made a motion to call the question. The vote for the motion to call the question passed with a voice vote. The article passed by a majority voice vote.

Lunch break was called at 12:15pm. The meeting will resume at 1:00pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:01pm

Hearing no objection Vermont State Senator Alice Nitka spoke to the body about the work she has been doing on the Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Specifically she mentioned balancing the budget; keeping child care programs, higher education funding and teacher's retirement out of the Education Fund; the Vermont State Lottery; the State's heroin epidemic; Act 46 and School Choice issues; and the VSP role in enforcing federal immigration laws.

**Article 9:** Shall the Town vote to raise the sum of \$120,000 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand), to be put into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund. Bob Fish moved the article. Marge seconded the motion. There was a question about the increase in the amount from \$100,000.00 last year to \$120,000.00 this year. The Select board explained that given the current condition of the Town's fleet of vehicles the increase is necessary to keep pace with the necessary replacement of vehicles. The article passed by a voice vote.

**Article 10:** Shall the Town of Londonderry vote a sum not to exceed \$200,000 for a Salt/Sand shed to be constructed on the Prouty Land; and to finance no more than \$160,000 over a period not to exceed 5 years with \$40,000 toward the cost through current taxes. Hearing no objection Paul Gordon was allowed to give an informational presentation of the Salt and Sand Shed. Marge Fish moved the article. Dick Dale seconded the motion. There was discussion about the fact that the cost estimates were arrived at through receiving estimates from multiple companies and the project had not gone out to bid yet. There was a brief explanation about the circumstances that have led us to this point in the process of leaving the State garage in Londonderry. There was

discussion about the types of materials to be used as well as the size of the building being both adequate and cost effective. The article passed by a voice vote.

The Moderator called a two minute recess to briefly discuss something about Article 11 with the Select board. The meeting was reconvened.

**Article 11:** To see how much the Town will vote for a General Fund. The amount of \$1,848,462.21 was on page 15 of the Town Report. Dick Dale moved the article. Bob Fish seconded the motion. Bob Forbes offered an amendment to reduce the General Fund Budget to \$1,785,282.94. Bob Forbes explained that the reduction he recommended was based on eliminating the new position of a public works director and was concerned about the overall increase in the town budget. There was further discussion about the increase in the municipal tax rate and that the amendment is a reduction based on the exact amount budgeted for the public works position. The select board discussed the changes to both the municipal and education tax rate and that the fluctuations in both this year would likely result in a very small overall increase to the tax rate. There was discussion about the need for this new position and some of ways in which the costs of the position would be covered. There was discussion about using the current staff to get all necessary work done, subbing work out or possibly hiring a part time employee instead of another full time person. The moderator offered some information about removing a specific line item from the budget. Pete Cobb made a motion to amend the amendment to say the general fund budget would be reduced from \$1,848,462.21 to \$1,785,282.94 for the purpose of eliminating the public works director position, schedule 23 in the town budget. John Barry seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion about how the select board planned to get all the necessary work done should this position be eliminated. The vote to amend the amendment passed by a voice vote. The article was amended to say the general fund budget would be reduced from \$1,848,462.21 to \$1,785,282.94 for the purpose of eliminating the public works director position, schedule 23 in the town budget. The vote to amend the article passed by a majority voice vote. The vote on the amended article, to vote a general fund of \$1,785,282.94 for the purpose of eliminating the public works director position, schedule 23 in the town budget passed by a majority voice vote.

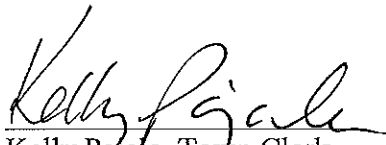
**Article 12:** Shall the Town vote for its taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer as provided by law, due date to be on or before October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Dick Dale moved the article. Bob Fish seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

**Article 13:** Shall the Town vote to raise the sum of \$93,900.00 for the following organizations? American Red Cross \$200.00, Champion Fire Company #5 \$20,000.00, Flood Brook Athletic Association \$2,500.00, Grace Cottage Foundation \$500.00, Greater Northshire Access TV \$2,000.00, Green Mountain RSVP \$415.00, Green Up Vermont \$100.00, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services \$1,513.00, Londonderry 4<sup>th</sup> of July \$1,000.00, Londonderry Conservation Fund \$1,000.00, Londonderry Vol. Rescue Squad \$6,000.00, Mountain Valley Medical Center \$26,000.00, Neighborhood Connections \$5,000.00, Senior Solutions \$850.00, SEVCA \$1,700.00, Southeast Vermont Watershed Alliance \$415.00, The Collaborative \$1,000.00, Valley Cares \$2,742.00, Visiting Nurse Assoc. of VT & NH \$7,000.00, Vermont Rural Fire Protection \$100.00, West River Montessori School \$2,000.00, Windham County Historical Society \$250.00, Windham County Humane Society \$500.00, Windham County Youth Services \$315.00, Women's Freedom Center \$800.00, South Londonderry Library \$10,000.00. Dick Dale moved the article. Bob Fish seconded it. Dick Dale made an amendment to reduced the amount of the article to \$67,900.00 by removing Mountain Valley Medical Center's appropriation request of \$26,000.00 per that organization's request. The vote on the

amendment passed by a voice vote. There was discussion about all of the appropriations requests having the required financial documents for their request to be accepted. There was some discussion about structuring the appropriations article differently in the future, such as giving some requests separate articles as was done in the past. Matt Mosher spoke on behalf of Champion Fire Company about their annual budget. Emmett Dunbar made an amendment to require organizations to provide required documentation before receiving any funds. Bob Forbes seconded the amendment. Emmett Dunbar withdrew his amendment. John Barry called the question. The body voted in favor of calling the question. The amended article totaling \$67,900.00, excluding Mountain Valley Medical Center, passed by a voice vote.

**Article 14:** To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting. Joe Markowski asked which financial institutions the town had funds with. He made a statement about TDBanks involvement with the Dakota Access Pipeline and encouraged the town to discontinue doing business with TDBank. Steve Twitchell thanked Bill Wylie and Wayne Blanchard for his service on the select board. John Barry moved to adjourn. David Nunnikhoven seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed by a voice vote at 2:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted and Received for record 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2017

  
Kelly Pajala, Town Clerk

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Doug Friant Moderator

